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Bush Seen Willing To Forego Politics

By Walter Pincus

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George Bush appears willing to forego immediate political ambitions in order to gain Senate confirmation as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, according to Sen. John Tower (R-Tex.).

Since Tuesday, when he returned to Washington from China, where he headed the U.S. liaison office, Bush has been making courtesy calls on Armed Service Committee members who will begin hearings on his nomination Monday. Tower is a member of the committee and has talked with Bush.

Tower said Bush indicated he is willing to give some assurance that he would not leave the CIA job to participate in the 1976 campaign.

Most opposition to Bush has centered on his activity in politics and President Ford's refusal to rule him out as a vice presidential candidate next year.

Bush refused to answer questions on his future plans, saying: "I would rather wait until the hearing Monday."

Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho), chairman of the Senate intelligence committee, said last week Bush "must renounce a place on the Republican ticket" or face the prospect his nomination will be defeated. Even with such a pledge, Church said, he would

oppose Bush because of his political background.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) said he, too, thinks "a pledge of some kind would have to be made" if Bush is to be confirmed.

Among his political activities, Bush has served as U.S. representative from Texas and run unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate from Texas. He has also served as national chairman of the Republican Party.

Bush, in his informal talks with senators, has said his background in politics "may be a plus in contrast with career CIA people," according to one senator.

"How do you like what they have done?" Bush is described as saying in reference to recent disclosures of illegal and unsavory CIA operations that took place when career men Allen Dulles and Richard Helms were CIA directors.

It appears doubtful the Armed Services Committee will act on the Bush nomination before the Senate adjourns Friday for its Christmas recess, a committee aide said.

The Monday hearing, the aide said, was scheduled at the request of the White House, apparently to still rumors the President was backing away from the Bush nomination.